

devoted to the administering of the Oath of Hippocrates at the completion of the formal medical training is an hour which is worthily appropriated. For, it is an hour which should ever after serve as a reminder that the concern and responsibility of one human being over the welfare of other human

beings preoccupied the thinkers of the Periclean age of Greece just as much as it does the moral philosophers of today.

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May 14, 1962

Hysterectomy

. . . REGARDING the article "Reflections on Hysterectomy" in the February issue of CALIFORNIA MEDICINE [Chairman's address before the Section on Obstetrics and Gynecology at the 1961 Annual Session]: The author gives undue encouragement to those whose untempered judgment may incline toward needless or to premature operation.

Abnormalities of bleeding which cause serious disability are not as frequent as the article suggests. Neither ". . . menorrhagia or dysmenorrhea

sufficient to interfere with the patient's enjoyment of life," nor "worrisomeness," nor the presence of a uterine fibroid, nor a greatly extended point of view of "prophylactic value" are in themselves indications for major excisional surgery. Such criteria lead to uncritical overenthusiastic operation and to an inevitable and justifiable reaction on the part of the public and its writers.

Contrary to the author's opinion, hysterectomy *should* be deplored "unless there is no other method of handling the problem at hand."

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